

# Active Shooter Incidents

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Silver Cross EMSS

EMD CE Presentation



Silver Cross Emergency  
Medical Services System



# The Reality

Terrorist threats, criminal attacks and active shootings are occurring with alarming frequency. Incidents have been increasing and becoming more violent since 2000. No two mass shooting/active shooter events are the same. Public safety agencies must adapt to changes in our society so that they can deliver appropriate emergency services in a crisis. Many of these types of events cannot be peacefully resolved or negotiated.

# Targets

- What types of facilities would be potential targets for a mass shooting event or terrorist attack.
  - Businesses
  - Sporting Events
  - Hospitals
  - Malls
  - Religious buildings
  - Political buildings or events
  - Parades
  - Tourist Attractions or landmarks
  - The list goes on.....

# Be prepared!

- Pre-planning and having policies for these types of incidents is essential.
- Is your center prepared?
- Do you have an active shooter procedure? Have you practiced it?
- Where can you find information about your center's policies?
- Everyone needs to know their role for a coordinated response in these types of incidents.

**ARE YOU READY?**

# Facts

- An Active Shooter incident, involves a persons or persons that are engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In most cases the active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.
- These situations are unpredictable, evolve quickly and are often over within 15 minutes
- Motivation for attacks and types of venues have been varied.
- Most common are educational facilities and workplace environments.

# Facts

- According to FBI statistics shooters are generally male and act alone.
- About 50 % of the time, the shooter was deceased, either shooting themselves or being stopped by officers.
- The rest were arrested with a small percentage, about 4-5 %, never being caught.
- Most shooters have had no previous arrests for violent acts.
- A majority have had a history of social isolation and some interaction with mental health professionals.

# Catalysts or Triggers could include

- Recent loss: significant loved one or job
- Significant changes: financial status, living arrangements or life circumstances
- Feelings of humiliation or rejection

# Early Warning Signs

- Sudden increase in phone calls to PSAPs
- Open lines with muffled noises
- Background noises of gunfire or explosions
- Suspicious person calls or calls about sightings of weapons
- Fire alarm pulls during operating hours – could be used as a way to lure victims into gunfire or by victims as a call for help



# Key Information is Important

- Remember, as a dispatcher, you must control the caller and ultimately help control the chaos at the scene.
- Help direct victims to seek out a safe location to wait for responders.
- Your questioning of callers and relaying appropriate information is paramount for the safety of responders. Scene descriptions are important!
- Try to get an exact location and number of shooters for the responding officers.
- Police response will be based on your information to decide the type of response, approach and entry point.

# Victim Safety

- Those in immediate danger have 3 possible options:
  - Evacuate
  - Hide
  - Last resort if faced with immediate violence: Engage the suspect
    - Distract by yelling or throwing things
    - Attempt to fight and protect themselves
- Work with callers and give them suggestions to make themselves safer in this unstable situation

# Control the Chaos

- Remember that each caller is a different witness with new information.
- Update responders with new information.
- Calm and reassure the caller that help is on the way.
- Assist responders in locating the victims.

# Update and Coordinate

- Keep law enforcement updated as new information comes in.
  - Movement of shooter
  - Scene changes
  - Number of victims
- Give pre-arrival instructions based on approved EMDPRS
  - Safety of victims is important
  - A – B – Cs, treat life threats
  - Bleeding control and shock treatment will be priorities
- Update EMS responders

## Incident Will Continue Until.....

- The shooter runs out of ammo
- The shooter runs out of victims
- The shooter kills himself
- Law enforcement or someone on the scene is able to stop the shooter

## Other Considerations

- Does concealed carry create another issue in these types of incidents?

# Video

<https://www.ems1.com/videos/originals/dispatch-training/2124501-How-dispatchers-should-handle-active-shooter-calls/>

Watch this short video on Dispatch Responsibility in an Active Shooter Incident. There will be a few questions about this video on your study guide. Good Review!

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- What CE topics would you like to cover in 2016?  
Contact Rhonda at [emsjunkie1@aol.com](mailto:emsjunkie1@aol.com), with suggestions or questions.
- AHA 2015 CPR Guidelines Update review coming soon



# Sources

- Department of Homeland Security, Active Shooter Preparedness  
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